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EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1970



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IN OFFICE

1970 - 1971

Chairman of the Council:	Councillor R.J. Maggs.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee:	Councillor E.J. Bishop.
(Clerk of the Council:	W. Wilmott, Esq., (Deceased 18/9/70).
(Acting Clerk of the Council:	M.C. Nott, Esq., A.I.M.T.A., M.A.P.H.I.
(Clerk of the Council:	A. Syrett, Esq., M.B.E., D.M.A., F.C.I.S. (Appointed 1/3/71).
Chief Public Health Inspector:	W.H. Sayers, Esq., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Surveyor:	R.H. Ruston, Esq., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.I.P.H.E.
Treasurer:	M.C. Nott, Esq., A.I.M.T.A., F.R.V.A.
Medical Officer of Health:	Dr. Malcolm Smith Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health:	Dr. James Leslie Gordon, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., (Major General, Retired).

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EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health for 1970

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Council's concern for the Public Health as it has developed over the years has shown trends varying with the success of the public health services.

The incidence of notifiable diseases has declined with the prevention of particular infections. Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis have come under control. Measles, although immunisation is available is not yet held. Whooping Cough shows reduced prevalence, but virus infections, particularly the entero-viruses and adeno-viruses, seem to have benefited from a clearer field, or else we recognise them more easily. Without specific vaccines for the viruses we depend on routine measures, the improvement of food hygiene, improved facilities for household hygiene by house improvements and the extension of main drainage. Upgrading the household standards of problem families, while the concern of the local health and children's departments is of importance as these lowstandard households, particularly where there is crowding, if not overcrowding in living conditions, appear to become a point of concentration for the more severe manifestations of enterovirus infection.


It is, therefore, good to see how over the years the public health inspectors have been able to give more and more of their time to house improvements, having dealt with the greater part of the problem of unfit housing. In recent years, the Council has taken over groups of houses which have needed much repair and upgrading. Some of the older council houses and even some post-war houses show defects that lead to complaints. The value of accepting the same right of complaint to the public health department for council tenants as for private tenants if or when conditions deteriorate, is not only in the help to the tenant but in the opportunity given to assess the standard of the overall living conditions of the community, now and in future years.

In the sewage disposal improvements that you have under contract the local difficulties resulting from the work will lead to better amenities in due course. It would be good if such progress could be made in improving the Beacon Lane, Woodnesborough, situation which remains a hazard to a water gathering locality.

Environmental pollution is a growing concern not so much as the "in thing" but from a real need to examine whether the public is being fully protected from its own waste as well as industrial and agricultural activity. Within the public service sector refuse collection and disposal and sewage disposal other than by main drainage has, as a result of rising costs, become subject to work study and management manipulation from the financial angle. I cannot but express an impression from united district experience as well as local, that there is danger to a progressive policy towards environmental improvement in the greatest application of this management method, unless the method provides to the local services extra hours of manpower available to deal with amenity hazards, or to prevent vandalism by more supervision, or to deal with seasonal difficulties arising from tourists or just bad weather.

MALCOLM S. HARVEY

Medical Officer of Health.



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## POPULATION AND STATISTICS.

The Rural District has a stable population which has shown a very slow growth over the years. It has a birth rate below the national average because of the above average number of elderly and the absence of any development area which would attract the younger employed and fertile element of the community, but once adjustment is made for this the correction shows no failure on the part of the community to maintain its numbers. It is a healthy rural area for survival and the progress made in the control and treatment of chest diseases associated with mining has reduced this element in causes of death in the working years. This is seen in the decline of deaths in the working years from pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases. Out of the 54 male deaths between age 15 and 64 years, only 6 were due to respiratory causes. Four were due to cancer of lung and bronchus; while 17 were due to ischaemic heart disease.

The general statistics for the year are given below:-

Population mid 1970        -        24,210.

Live births:    174 Males    171 Females.    Total 345, of which 23 were  
born outside marriage.

There were in addition 3 stillbirths making a total of 348 live and stillbirths.

The birth rate before adjustment was 14.3 per 1,000 population and after adjustment (factor 1.13) was 16.2, approximately comparable to the national birth rate of 16.

In view of the small number, the stillbirth rate of 9 per 1,000 live and still births compared to the national rate of 13 is not significant.

The deaths, all ages, numbered 204 Males    187 Females.    Total 391.

The infant deaths numbered only 3 all under age 1 week and associated with birth problems or other perinatal factors. All were amongst the legitimate births.

These low figures give an Infant Mortality Rate of only 9 per 1,000 live births compared to a national figure of 18, but the same rate applied to the early neonatal mortality rate and was closer to the national figure of 11, indicating that the benefit was in child care and health after the immediate post natal period.

Along with the low stillbirth rate this gave a satisfactory perinatal mortality rate of 17 (deaths under 1 week and still births per 1,000 live and still births).

The death rate, all ages, was 16.2 per 1,000 population before adjustment (factor 0.71) corrected to 11.5 per 1,000 and comparable to the national rate of 11.7).

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Respiratory Tuberculosis due to its unhappy association with pneumoconiosis, has in the past been a cause for concern in view of the coal mines in the district. But the improved control of dust in the mines and the careful attention to routine chest X-ray of mine workers and their home contacts has changed the picture and in 1970 only 3 new cases were reported in the district, as low as any other local authority (apart from Sandwich Borough) in the United District.

Mass Radiography Survey.

The last routine survey of civilian population was carried out by visits in February and March to the villages in the Rural District. Parish Councils assisted by informing the local communities of the programme and as a result there was a 30% increase in attendances over the figures for the previous visit. Totals of 1005 males and 1366 females, an overall increase of 622 persons attended. Ten cases of inactive tuberculosis of the lung were identified, no active cases, and one case of cancer of the lung.

Visits in June made to the two hospitals in the Rural District identified two inactive cases amongst the 395 persons examined.

The state of the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1970 was -

Respiratory Tuberculosis	41 Males.	33 Females.	Total	74.
Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	8 "	3 "	"	11.
				<hr/>
				Total 85.

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Measles unhappily provided 145 notified cases, and it is clear that measles vaccination had not made a real impact on its incidence.

Dysentery was unusual in that the 7 notifications included 3 adults. Four food poisoning cases were notified.

Table of Notifications

	Q.1	Q.2	Q.3	Q.4	Under 1 Year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15+	Total	
Measles	50	55	31	9	2	79	57	4	3	145	
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	3	
Dysentery	5	1	-	1	2	1	1	-	3	7	
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Acute Meningitis	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
	Q.1	Q.2	Q.3	Q.4	Total	Under 5	5-9	10-14	15-44	45-64	65+
Food Poisoning	3	-	-	1	4	2	2	-	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-	3	-



The County Health Department promotes vaccination and immunisation and in 1970 primary protection was provided for 237 children against Diphtheria, 215 against Measles and 324 against Poliomyelitis. Rubella vaccination was provided for 58 girls age 11-13 years. Smallpox vaccination to children aged 1-3 years was still in the programme and 114 toddlers were protected. Protection against diphtheria included tetanus inoculation.

Reinforcing doses against diphtheria and tetanus were given to 375 pre-school and school children and against poliomyelitis to 339 children.

(Births 1969 = 346. Infant Deaths 1969 and 1970 = 12.

New infants requiring protection in 1970 = 334)

#### GENERAL MATTERS.

(See the separate report by the Chief Public Health Inspector).

#### Housing:

The Council built 34 new houses and private enterprise 58 houses during the year, while 31 existing houses were provided with basic amenities by standard grants and 25 improved by a wider range of works. Eight houses were demolished under order and four closed. Ten houses under demolition or closing order were the subject of new proposals to rescue them and one was made fit and the order resolved. The overall progress is a gradual and steady upgrading of older property and the minimum of demolition.

#### Water Supply.

The Water authorities continued to supply a safe chalk water supply from deep wells. There was an expression of concern over the risks to the Woodnesborough source from the Beacon Lane cesspools, although chlorination provides an adequate protection on all test results. The need to provide an alternative means of disposing of the highly saline mine water, for its present disposal over a water gathering area presents a limitation to sources, has yet to be resolved.

The general mains supply has a hardness of around 250 mgm/litre carbonate, a low fluoride level 0.1 or less mgm/litre, and nitrates well within the acceptable limits of 50 - 100 mgm/litre.

The Regional Sewerage Scheme to an enlarged Wingham sewage disposal works made progress during the year.

#### Food Supervision.

The intermittent importation of food through Manston Airfield caused an unusual demand on the time of the public health inspectors. A similar hazard of sudden demands for health inspection applied to the medical officer of health and his deputy through the arrival of foreign work permit holders on flights at short notice. It would seem better to use the reform of local government areas to include this airfield in the responsibilities of the Thanet authority which already include the Hoverport and the Port of Ramsgate with full customs and immigration facilities and established port health arrangements, than to continue supervision by a rural orientated district and its staff, who have to work with Customs and Immigration based on the Thanet Authority area.

Mr. Sayers refers in his report to the type and quantity of food inspected at Manston.

There are now no slaughterhouses in the District and the small quantity of meat and other foods condemned was in the wholesale and retail trade.

#### Caravans, Camps and Hop Pickers.

The Chief Public Health Inspector lists the Caravan Sites and Holiday Camps.

There is as yet no site for gypsies in the area of East Kent and, therefore, each temporary settlement is a problem of conscience for the public health department, to avoid harassment of the gypsies and yet to prevent or correct the offence to amenities that irregular use of unsuitable sites may cause.

#### Hop Pickers Camps and Pop Festivals.

While the two categories are unrelated there is an echo of the past problems met in the former in the problems of the latter.

There are now no Hop Pickers Camps in use in the District.

In August information came to the Public Health Department of a Pop Festival to be held near Plucksgutter. The organisers provided details of the arrangements made which covered access, sanitary accommodation, catering, water supply, refuse disposal and first aid. It was fortunately to be of limited duration, with the usual uncertainty as to numbers. Sadly for the organisers but fortunately for the conditions that might have arisen the numbers fell far short of hopes. The potential hazard to public hygiene was apparent, and the very short notice which was received by the Public Health Department would have made remedial action the more difficult to impose.

#### Noise.

The discomfort caused, in particular to new residents in a rural area, by the use of electronic bird scarers brought the usual complaints at cherry picking time. The growers sought to reduce the inconvenience to humans by muting the reproduction in early morning and evening. The Hoverport by introducing a competing inconvenience may have been responsible for the decline in complaints lately.

The definition of a noise nuisance which cannot be measured in decibels is indeed difficult. The repeated banging of the door of a shop may be most irritating to the occupants of the flat over the shop, if in a separate tenancy. But the overtones of disagreement between the occupants of shop and flat may enhance the distress intolerably. Such a case called for tactful handling by the Inspectors.

#### Effluvia, etc.

A problem arose from refuse tipping into water at one of the Council's tips, in which a site meeting was needed to reach an acceptable arrangement of control to exclude tipping into water in the warm months, greater control of wind-blown material and protection of the visual amenities of adjoining properties by screening fences.

#### Other matters.

There follows some detailed consideration of annual statistics over recent years:-

YEAR	POPULATION	BIRTHS	DEATHS	INFANT DEATHS	% ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.
1960	22,190	384	318	12	4.2
1961	22,280	386	313	9	6
1962	22,540	380	328	7	6
1963	22,830	380	360	6	5.25
1964	23,330	424	353	11	4.2
1965	23,500	390	346	6	7
1966	23,720	400	402	5	5.5
1967	23,890	391	397	8	5.8
1968	24,210	386	458	7	5.4
1969	24,320	346	375	9	5
Rates for previous 10 years.		16.5/1000	15.7/1000	8 per annum.	5.5%
Rates for 1970 before adjustment.		14.3/1000	16.2/1000	3 Infant Deaths.	6.6% (England & Wales 8%)



1970 Total Deaths	DEATHS BY CAUSE	MALES By Age Groups						FEMALES By Age Groups					
		All	Under 1	1-14	15- 64	65- 74	75+	All	Under 1	1-14	15- 64	65- 74	75+
-	Tuberculosis	-						-					
1	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases.	1			1			-					
1	Malignant Buccal Cavity.	-						1					1
1	Neoplasms. Oesophagus.	-						1					1
6	" Stomach.	4			1	3		2			1		1
4	" Intestine.	2			1	1		2			1		1
1	" Larynx.	1			1			-					
20	" Lung & Bronchus.	19			4	9	6	1			1		
3	" Breast.	-						3			1	1	1
2	" Uterus.	-						2			1		1
3	" Prostate.	3				2	1	-					
1	Leukaemia.	-						1					1
19	Other Malignant Neoplasms.	10			2	3	5	9			2	5	2
3	Diabetes Mellitus.	2				1	1	1				1	
1	Other Endocrine Diseases.	-						1					1
2	Anaemias.	-						2				1	1
6	Other Diseases of Nervous Syst.	2			1		1	4				1	3
3	Chronic Rheu.Heart Disease.	3			3			-					
3	Hypertensive Disease.	3			1	1	1	-					
78	Ischaemic Heart Disease.	47			17	16	14	31			5	8	18
37	Other forms of Heart Dis.	7				1	6	30				1	29
60	Cerebrovascular Disease.	23			2	3	18	37			2	7	28
19	Other forms of Circ.Disease.	7			1	2	4	12			1	1	10
7	Influenza.	4				3	1	3			1	1	1
30	Pneumonia.	13			1	5	7	19			1	2	16
20	Bronchitis & Emphysema.	16			3	5	8	4				1	3
1	Asthma.	-						1				1	
7	Other Diseases Resp.System.	6		1	2	2	1	1			1		
5	Peptic Ulcer.	3			1	1	1	2				1	1
1	Int.Obstruction & Hernia.	-						1					1
3	Other Dis.of Digestive System.	2			1	1		1			1		
5	Nephritis. Nephrosis.	3			2		1	2				1	1
7	Other Dis.Genito Urinary.	4					4	3			1		2
1	Dis.of Skin & Subcut.Tissue.	-						1				1	
1	Dis.Muscular Skeletal System.	1				1		-					
1	Congenital Anomalies.	1			1			-					
1	Birth Inj. Difficult Labour.	-						1	1				
2	Other Perinatal Causes.	2	2					-					
6	Symptoms & Ill defined Condtis.	3					3	3					3
6	Motor Vehicle Accidents.	5		1	3	1		1			1		
6	All other Accidents.	3			1		2	3					3
4	Suicide & Self Infl. Inj.	4			4			-					
1	All other Ext. Causes.	-						1			1		
391		204	2	2	54	61	85	187	1	-	23	34	129







EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

1970

REPORT BY THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



To the Chairman and Members of  
EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on Environmental Health within the Eastry Rural District for the year 1970.

During the year, following adverse reports on two houses within the district, co-ordinating meetings were held with County Officers which resulted in the introduction of the Family Welfare Service into each of the homes. How far this succeeds rests primarily with the families' own efforts but these, in turn, are largely dependent upon advice, encouragement and above all, practical help that is needed from a number of sources. The major contributions so far have been from the Children's Department and the Domestic Help Service whose wholly admirable efforts in these cases has not, I fear, been fully recognised. At the same time, however, thought might be directed to consideration of how conditions could reach the stage that made such rescue operations necessary and what should be done to prevent them arising in the future.

The complaints received each summer on the subject of sanitary conveniences at Sandwich Bay will, it is hoped, be a thing of the past when the conveniences to be erected by the Council come into use, but the act of providing public amenities can itself lead to problems which, in Sandwich Bay, could be that of cleansing and maintenance of the new conveniences. Again, litter baskets provided so liberally throughout the district serve to show what a wide interpretation can be put upon the meaning of "litter" - it is not unknown for nearby residents to use them in place of domestic dustbins. The extent to which certain litter baskets are used in popular villages during the summer creates problems for the cleansing staff, as an almost daily emptying can become necessary in order to avoid conditions far worse than litter baskets are intended to prevent.

It is not uncommon when a subject is brought to the Council's attention for Members to question how it came to the notice of the public health department, so perhaps some explanation would be helpful. One source is, of course, through complaints from the public who almost traditionally have turned to their public health department when in trouble and a summary of the subjects on which help was sought appears at the end of this report. Less well known may be the statutory responsibility under which public health inspectors are required to keep themselves informed, by inspection and observation, of the sanitary circumstances and other matters relating to environmental health within the district; it is important in the interest of the community that, whatever changes the future may bring this function at local level must be maintained.

W. H. SAYERS

Chief Public Health Inspector

MARCH, 1971.





## HOUSING

In spite of the efforts of the Selection Committees, out of a total of 170 families re-housed by the Council during the year, only 9 were families living in houses subject to Demolition or Closing Orders and 15 such houses remained occupied at the end of the year. Long-standing cases of families living in condemned houses are usually those who are not prepared to move and, whilst there is a natural unwillingness to force help on those who do not want it and a due respect for the liberty of the individual, one wonders how much understanding there would be of such motives should a tragedy occur.

Only four applications for Qualification Certificates were received in 1970 and one Certificate only has been issued. Over the years, in visits to tenanted houses, it has been found that the vast majority of tenants whose rents are below average recognise the fact and accordingly make little demands on their landlords for repairs but when, be it in Local Authority or privately owned houses, rents are raised to an economic figure, then tenants for their part will expect and will demand a reasonable standard of maintenance.

### Formal action taken under the Housing Act, 1957.

No. of houses reported under Section 16 ... .. (i.e. not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense).	7
No. of Demolition Orders made ... ..	8
No. of Closing Orders made ... ..	4
* No. of houses demolished ... .. (including one house Demolished by the Council in default)	8
No. of houses, subject to Demolition or Closing Orders ... in which proposals under Section 24 for repair and improvement were accepted.	10
No. of houses, subject to Demolition or Closing Orders ... repaired, improved and made fit for habitation and the Orders revoked.	1

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## HOUSE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Since 1954 the Council have actively encouraged a policy of voluntary house improvements with the aid of Grants and by the end of 1970 Discretionary and Standard Grants had been approved for a total of 1,086 dwellings; of this number, 440 were owner-occupied.

A substantial increase in the number of enquiries resulted from the Ministry campaign publicising grants but there is clearly much misunderstanding as to the extent to which grant-aid can cover repairs and replacements. Considerable time has been spent in explaining this and making it clear that, to quote the Ministry booklet - "repairs and replacements by themselves do not qualify for grant".

A noticeable effect of the greatly increased maximum grant, together with the possible inclusion of repairs and replacements, has been the submission of schemes that would not previously have been considered worthwhile and, as a result, fourteen applications for Discretionary grants were refused during the year.

The removal of the conditions previously attached to both forms of grant, which discouraged the sale of an improved dwelling, has opened the door to speculation in the purchase of older properties, solely for the purpose of grant-aided improvement and immediate re-sale. Whether making grants in these circumstances is a proper use of public funds is open to question but, so long as it is legally permissible, it is for the Local Authority to consider whether a refusal in such cases would be a proper use of their discretion.

### Summary of Grants approved during the year 1970

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

These grants cover a wide range of works with an ordinary maximum grant of £1,000 and are made at the Council's discretion. The maximum grant was approved in EIGHT cases.

No. of dwellings for which grants approved	-	25
Estimated total cost.	£46,811	
	(Average - £1,872 per dwelling)	
Improvements.	£27,988	
	(Average - £1,119 per dwelling)	
Repairs as improvements.	£5,385	
	(Average - £215 per dwelling)	
Other works.	£13,438	
	(Average - £537 per dwelling)	
Approved expense of works.	£33,373	
	(Average - £1,334 per dwelling)	
Grants approved.	£15,462	
	(Average - £618 per dwelling)	

## STANDARD GRANTS.

These grants are for the provision of basic facilities only and, provided certain conditions are met, the Council cannot refuse a valid application. The normal maximum grant is £200, with a higher limit of £450 where a bathroom is provided by building-on or by converting an outbuilding - installation of septic tank or cesspool drainage, or bringing piped water supply into a house for the first time.

No. of dwellings for which grants approved - 31

In 13 cases the application qualified for the higher limit grant.

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In both forms of grant, improvement works included:-

<u>Provision of bathrooms</u>	-	42
(a) by conversion of existing rooms	-	25
(b) by building-on	-	13
(c) by conversion of outbuildings	-	4
<u>Internal Water Closets</u>	-	42
<u>Wash-hand Basins</u>	-	41
<u>Hot Water Systems</u>	-	46
By means of:		
(a) Solid Fuel	-	17
(b) Electricity	-	18
(c) Gas	-	9
(d) Oil	-	2
<u>Drainage Systems</u>	-	17
<u>Damp-proofing.</u>	-	8

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## WATER SUPPLY

Of the 8,948 dwelling houses in the district, nine only are now without a piped water supply.

Sixteen samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from private wells and two sources were found to be unfit. Two samples taken for chemical analysis, one from the mains and one from a private supply, were reported as being satisfactory.

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## SWIMMING POOLS

The Local Authority have no legislative control over the use of swimming pools, but advice and guidance on their operation is generally welcomed and twelve pools were regularly visited when in use. A total of thirty-eight visits were made at which the waters were tested for clarity, chlorine content and alkalinity.

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## DRAINAGE AND SANITATION

Ten existing dwellings were connected to the public sewer during the year and at the Foxhunter Caravan Park, Monkton, connection of a further eighty-nine caravan standings was commenced in the Autumn.

As far as is known, there are still 132 properties in the district as a whole draining to cesspools and septic tanks, although a public sewer is available.

Six pail closets only were abolished but, when the Regional Sewerage Scheme is completed and main drainage becomes available in the areas of Preston, Elmstone, Wingham Well, Wingham Green, Staple, Nonington, Chillenden and Eythorne, approximately half of the remainder will disappear.

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PAIL CLOSETS

The following table shows the approximate number of Pail Closets existing in the various parishes at the end of 1970:-

Parish.	No. of Dwelling Houses.	Approx. No. of Dwelling Houses with Pail Closets.
ACOL	83	-
ASH	1012	20
AYLESHAM	1255	-
EASTRY	795	1
EYTHORNE	720	9
GOODNESTONE	141	16
MINSTER	1181	4
MONKTON	196	-
NONINGTON	264	28
NORTHBOURNE	282	6
PRESTON	246	19
RIPPLE	127	11
SARRE	45	3
SHOLDEN	260	1
STAPLE	166	16
STOURMOUTH	90	13
ST. NICHOLAS- AT-WADE.	311	-
SUTTON	315	8
TILMANSTONE	130	8
WINGHAM	599	13
WOODNESBOROUGH	386	25
WORTH	344	2
TOTAL:	8948	203



## CARAVANS AND CAMPING

The use of land as a caravan site is controlled by the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. Subject to certain exemptions, land may not be used as a caravan site unless the occupier of the land holds a site licence authorising the use of the land for that purpose.

Site licences which have been issued by the Council and are in force are as follows:-

Thanet's Caravan Park, Acol.	40 Holiday.
Frost Farm, St. Nicholas-at-Wade.	48 "
Smugglers Leap, Minster.	40 Residential.
Wayside, Minster.	54 Holiday.
Foxhunter Caravan Park, Monkton.	340 "
	( 28 Residential.
Dog & Duck, Stourmouth.	158 Holiday.
Sandhills, Sholden.	65 "
South London Holiday Camp, Sholden.	8 "
Sutton Vale, Sutton.	114 "
Invicta Sun Club, Sutton.	5 "
Old Fairground, Wingham.	6 Residential.

\*\*\*\*\*

Individual residential caravans.	2.
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\*\*\*\*\*

New licences were issued during the year for six more holiday caravans at the South London Holiday Camp, Sholden, and for an additional site at the Dog & Duck Inn, Stourmouth, for ninety-three holiday caravans. This latter site was the subject of a successful appeal against a planning refusal and consent was issued by the Minister, subject to conditions including the prohibition of winter storage on the site; this is a condition which does not apply on any other site in the district.

There has been continued agitation from caravan interests regarding what is claimed to be the inadequate provision for touring and short-stay caravans. In this district it is true that on existing sites few standings are left available for touring vans, but this rests with the site owners who, understandably, prefer a guaranteed full year's rental to the uncertainty of short stays during the holiday months.

If a genuine need is established, then planning permission should be sought for the use of land for this specific purpose rather than, as has occurred, overcrowding existing licensed sites in high summer.

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### Gypsies and Other Travellers.

In spite of all efforts over the fourteen years since I first brought this subject to the Council's notice, a permanent site in this area seems as remote as ever. The fact that, over this period, although there have been local annoyances from time-to-time, no serious problem has persisted might suggest that the need for a site on the scale envisaged has scarcely been established.

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### Tented Camping.

The use of land for tented camping is outside the scope of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, and such limited control as exists is contained in the Public Health Act, 1936. Licensing only applies when land is used for more than forty-two consecutive days or sixty days in any twelve consecutive months; one site licence has been issued by the Council, permitting seventy tents on land at St. Nicholas-at-Wade.

\*\*\*\*\*

### FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The District Council are responsible for the sections of the Act relating to the provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences in all factories, building operations and works of engineering construction. In addition, they administer the provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors at factories without mechanical power.

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Part I of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises.  (1)	Number on Register  (2)	Number of		
		Inspections  (3)	Written Notices  (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted  (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 &6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	58	69	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	62	72	1	-

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AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

This is an Act to provide for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in agriculture but the District Council are concerned only with that Section of the Act relating to the provision, maintenance and cleanliness of sanitary conveniences. It is found that the needs of field workers are still frequently overlooked and one hundred and eighteen inspections were made during the year.

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## WORKING CONDITIONS IN SHOPS AND OFFICES

The Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963, and subsequent Regulations, make standards for health, welfare and safety in offices, shops and certain railway premises. Matters covered by the Act include cleanliness, overcrowding, heating and lighting, sanitary facilities, safety and fire precautions, and the responsibility for enforcement is divided between local authorities, the factory inspectorate and fire authorities.

As far as is known all premises in the district for which the local authority are responsible have been registered, and ninety received a general inspection during the year. The various types of premises registered are:-

Offices	32
Retail shops	71
Wholesale shops & Warehouses	3
Catering Establishments	9
Fuel storage depots	1

During the year, infringements of the Act and Regulations found were as follows:-

Lack of cleanliness	1
Inadequate temperature	1
Inadequate guarding of machinery	2
Absence of thermometer	4
Insufficient or unsuitable lighting	6
Absence of handrail to stairs	1
Worn and unsafe floors	3
Absence of prescribed First Aid Materials	7
Dangerous electrical equipment	2
Absence of Abstract of the Act	1

An important provision of the Act is that which requires the occupier of any premises to which it applies, to notify the enforcing authority of any accident occurring on the premises, which causes the death of a person employed, or disables a person for more than three days from doing his usual work. The purpose of notification is to bring to light breaches of the Act and enable advice to be given on measures to prevent the recurrence of similar accidents; in this connection, a valuable quarterly journal "Accidents" is published by the Ministry. No accidents were notified to the Council during the past year.

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## FOOD

Food premises in the Rural District which are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, are as follows:-

Wholesalers:	3
Retail Food Shops:	116
Hotels, Cafes, Restaurants, Canteens:	62
Licensed Premises:	62
Poulterers:	2

### Premises registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

For the sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	94
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	2
For the Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	14
For Ham Boiling	...	...	...	12

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There are 38 registered Milk Distributors and all milk is processed and bottled outside the district.

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### Poultry:

There are two small poultry processing premises within the district processing approximately 2,500 turkeys and 16,000 broilers during a year. Slaughtering takes place at irregular times and intervals so that only limited examination of birds by Inspectors is practicable but there is a general oversight at routine visits to ensure that an effective system of scrutiny is maintained by the personnel engaged.

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### Contraventions reported to the Public Health Committee.

#### Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. Article 7(1).

This related to the giving out of Brussels Sprouts for sorting and trimming at domestic premises, prior to delivery to a food processing factory. A formal warning letter was sent.

#### Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966.

There were four cases relating to the failure to carry name and address on a vehicle and provision of required washing facilities. Following warning letters all were remedied.

#### Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Bread - part of moth embedded in slice	-	Warning letter.
Minced Beef Pie - mould.	-	Proceedings authorised.



Food Complaints received and action taken.

Bread - discolouration of crust (dirty baking tin).	-	Letter to bakers.
Chocolate - alleged nibbled by mice.	-	Not substantiated.
Minced meat - soiled with oil (from mincer).	-	Letter to retailer.
Bread - discolouration (over-run of dough).	-	Letter to bakers.
Stale chocolate ornaments (old stock).	-	Warning to retailer.

The "Agaroid" technique has been used throughout the year and two hundred and fifty tests were made on surfaces and equipment in a variety of premises involved in the manufacture, preparation and service of food, to check the effectiveness of cleansing routines.

This has been found to be a valuable practical means of stimulating co-operation and interest among food handlers in achieving higher standards of cleanliness.

Current fashions bring their problems - even to the food industry. There is no specific regulation requiring food handlers to wear head coverings (except when carrying meat) but in food factories they are generally supplied and worn - for the women light muslin worn turban fashion and for the men washable or disposable hats or caps.

When, however, masculine locks reach to the collar and beyond, a hat perched on top gives scant protection and serves little hygienic purpose. A suggestion that the female type of covering would be appropriate is not well received, and dare we demand a "short back and sides"?

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Ice-cream.

For several years sampling of ice-cream was discontinued as nothing but nationally produced and completely pre-wrapped ice-cream was sold in the district.

There has, however, been some change back to the sale of loose ice-cream which involves the retailer in maintaining hygienic conditions and satisfactory bacterial quality, and sampling has therefore been re-commenced.

Results of Sampling:

Number of taken:

GRADE:

	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>
22	18	3	-	1

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## The Imported Food Regulations, 1968.

These regulations contain measures for the protection of public health in relation to imported food and make it an offence to import food which is unfit for human consumption or is unsound or unwholesome.

The majority of foodstuffs flown into Manston Airport are fruit and vegetables which have usually been picked the same day, so that they invariably arrive in the evening or late at night - the actual time of arrival often being uncertain and subject to change at short notice, so that it has only been possible to examine a small percentage of these consignments. Fortunately, by reason of the high cost of air transport and the comparatively small quantities that can be carried by aircraft, food imported by air is generally of good quality and frequently out of season so far as this country is concerned. During the past year the ninety-seven food flights into Manston brought the following:-

Apples	-	48 tons
Aubergines	-	3 "
Beans	-	77 "
Capsicums	-	9 "
Cherries	-	10 "
Chillies	-	1½ "
Courgettes	-	22 "
Cucumbers	-	1½ "
Grapes	-	112 "
Peaches	-	14 "
Pears	-	22 "
Peas	-	6 "
Pimentos	-	5 "
Peppers	-	1 ton
Tomatoes	-	968 tons

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## NOISE

Under Section 1 of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, any noise or vibration which would amount to a nuisance at common law, becomes a statutory nuisance which can be dealt with through the procedure laid down in the Public Health Act, 1936, although as this procedure can be cumbersome and lengthy, most control is exercised through informal measures. It is most desirable that the possibility of noise nuisance should be appreciated at the planning stage of new buildings so that adequate measures can be taken to design against excessive noise levels.

Section 2 of the Act deals with loudspeakers in streets and prohibits their use for any purpose, except under Special circumstances, between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m. and at any other time for advertising any trade or business for entertainment. Vehicles used for the sale of perishable foodstuffs may use a loudspeaker between noon and 7 p.m., provided it is not operated so as to annoy people in the vicinity.

Complaints of noise nuisance were received regarding:-

- Pop music from a village hall - loud and late.
- A generator operating temporary traffic lights.
- Grain drying plants.
- Electronic bird scarers.

Informal action was successful in three cases but in the last, complaints ceased only when the last cherry was picked.

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## HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

There are fourteen Hairdressers and Barbers in the area to whom regular visits are made to ensure compliance with the Council's Byelaws. These byelaws are for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises on which a hairdressers or barber's business is carried on and of the instruments, towels and equipment used therein and the cleanliness of hairdressers and barbers working in such premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

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## SHOPS ACT, 1950

This is a consolidating Act relating mainly to hours of Closing and Sunday Trading. So far as the welfare of shop assistants is concerned, it covers Statutory half holidays, meal times and the hours of employment of young persons. The District Council are responsible for functions under the Act under a delegation agreement with the County Council.

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## CLEAN AIR

Under Section 6 of the Clean Air Act, 1968, anyone installing a furnace which will burn 100 lbs of coal an hour, or the equivalent in other fuel, is required to submit details to the local authority and obtain approval to the height of the furnace chimney. The purpose of this is to ensure that the height will be sufficient to prevent smoke, grit, dust, gases or fumes from becoming prejudicial to health or a nuisance. This requirement is independent of building regulations and applies also to the enlargement and replacement of existing furnaces.

Two applications were received during the year and chimney heights, calculated in accordance with Ministry recommendations, were agreed.

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## RODENTS AND INSECT PESTS

A second Rodent Operative was appointed during the year who will be employed mainly during the Autumn and Winter months.

The Council provide a free treatment for rats and mice in private dwelling houses and other properties are treated at an inclusive charge which is at present 45p per hour.

In addition to routine survey of agricultural holdings, regular inspections are made of particular premises including the Council's refuse tip and sewage works, food factories and the three collieries.

Warfarin continues to be used in the majority of infestations and, although a very careful watch is kept, no evidence to suggest the presence of Warfarin resistant rats or mice in the district has yet been detected.

In 75% of agricultural properties surveyed, however, it was found that owners were using Warfarin to carry out treatment themselves, not always with complete success; this could be due to under-baiting which arises from failure to estimate the extent of an infestation or to ensure a surplus of bait is maintained at all points when takes are occurring.

With staff becoming available, test baiting of sewers was possible in the areas of Aylesham, Minster, Monkton, St. Nicholas-at-Wade and Sholden. The Aylesham area again showed takes in sewer manholes and in a subsequent poison treatment, take was recorded in sixty-two manholes.

It is extremely difficult to form any accurate judgment on the overall level of rat infestation over an area of eighty-four square miles and it is unwise to draw too many conclusions from short term statistics. An examination of figures available over a period of ten years does however suggest that the level of infestation has fallen, but more and more evidence of rats in field banks, hedgerows and among growing crops might indicate that they are adapting themselves to the disappearance of corn ricks, the rat-proofing of corn stores and a general improvement in farm buildings.

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Inspections - 1970

Premises Treated.	Agricultural.	Non-Agricultural.	Total.
(a) As the result of notification.	38	252	290
(b) In the course of survey.	424	330	754
(c) No. found to be infested with rats or mice.	126	219	345

Treatments - 1970

	Agricultural.	Non-Agricultural.	Total.
Properties treated by the Council's Operative.	58	188	246

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Insect infestations dealt with during the year were as follows:-

Fleas	-	6
Cockroaches	-	2
Flies	-	5

1970 will certainly go down in the records as a "Wasp Year" - in the period from July to September, requests for assistance resulted in the destruction of one hundred and thirty nests.

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Complaints and requests for advice and guidance were received from the public on a wide variety of subjects as shown by the following table:-

Housing conditions and defects	...	...	...	...	33
Drainage	...	...	...	...	28
Food	...	...	...	...	6
Insect Pests	...	...	...	...	153
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	16
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	3
Noise	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	14
<hr/>					
Total:	...	...	...	...	257
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